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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE Shen Pao.TIBETANS MAY INVAD SIKANG

A Chinese intelligence officer, with 8 years experience in Tibet, has returned to Shang-hai. He reports that Tibetan authorities have designs on Sikang and, in his opinion, the defenses of Sikang are so weak that they could not afford any effective barrier to a Tibetan invasion. The Tibetan chieftains in Sikang all favor such a move, and with their aid such an invasion would speedily be successful. The Tibetans could place an estimated 150,000 men in the field for the invasion.

The informant said further that while Tibet is ostensibly ruled by the 15-year-old Dalai Lama, he is under the influence of his 70-year-old teacher, who because of his age is hardly able to manage affairs. Consequently, real power is in the hands of the great clans.

These clans by education and inclination are much more fully oriented toward England than toward China. A branch office of the Commission for Tibetan and Mongolian Affairs, which is responsible for looking after all affairs from education to foreign relations, is the only Chinese authority in Tibet.

While Tibet is recognized by the outside powers, including Britain, as a part of China, the Tibetan Trade Commission in its recent tour of Europe and the US carried passports issued by the Hong Kong Government.

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